

(S. 129) (P. 129) The Imperative

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1. The Imperative is a command; it orders someone to do something
(The word imperative derives from the verb imperare - to command)
2. The Imperative does not have a 'true' subject → the imperative is directed toward an individual or group, but it does not take a nominative noun.
Ex. Duc milites → "lead the soldiers!"; audi → "listen!"; tacete → "be silent!"
• Note that the imperative is often an exclamation.
3. The imperative can be singular or plural.
4. The ^{singular} imperative is formed by cutting the 're' off the infinitive form (the 2nd principal part).
The plural is formed by adding '-te' to the singular form.

Ex. amo, amare

Number	1st Conjugation: amo, amare - to love	2nd Conjugation: teneo, tenere - to hold
Singular	ama - love!	tene - hold!
Plural	amate - love!	tenete - hold!

Number	3rd Conjugation: rego, regere - to rule	4th Conjugation: audio, audire - to hear
Singular	rege - rule!	audi - hear!
Plural	regite* - rule!	audite - hear!

5. The Negative Imperative is formed by adding noli (for the singular) or nolite (for the plural) onto the infinitive form of the verb.

Singular	noli + infinitive
Plural	nolite + infinitive